

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 04919 230230Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 OES-07 HEW-04 AID-05 EB-08
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /131 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7794

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, AORG, EAID

SUBJ: 32D UNGA--THIRD COMMITTEE/ELDERLY AND AGED: US PROPOSAL
FOR WORLD YEAR AND WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

REF: USUN 4847

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL REACTIONS
TO THE US PROPOSAL CONCERNING A WORLD YEAR AND WORLD
ASSEMBLY ON AGING. THE NETHERLANDS DISLIKES INTER-
NATIONAL YEARS AND CONFERENCES IN GENERAL. WITH RES-
PECT TO THE ISSUE OF AGING, THEY FELT THAT IT WOULD BE
PREMATURE TO SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE BECAUSE THE ISSUE
IS NOT YET RECOGNIZED AS A WORLD PROBLEM. NETHERLANDS
FEELS THAT MORE ATTENTION IN THE UN SHOULD BE DEVOTED
TO RESEARCH AND DATA EXCHANGE BEFORE WE EMBARK ON ANY
LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS SUCH AS AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR AND
CONFERENCE. THEY WOULD NOT WISH TO BECOME INVOLVED IN
A WORLD CONFERENCE UNLESS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD SUP-
PORT IT WITH CONVICTION. FRANCE, SWEDEN AND ITALY HAVE
NO ENTHUSIASM FOR AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OR CONFERENCE,
BUT THEY WOULD NOT OPPOSE A US PROPOSAL. EGYPT

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STATED IT WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO AN INTERNATIONAL
YEAR BUT WISHED TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE ISSUE
OF A CONFERENCE. (THE EGYPTIAN HESITATION TO OPPOSI-
TION OR COMMENT ON THE WORLD CONFERENCE IS DIRECTLY
DUE TO THE FACT THAT EGYPT, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS,
IS TRYING TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE ON
YOUTH AND THEREFORE DOES NOT WISH TO OPPOSE ANY OTHER

WORLD CONFERENCES IN PRINCIPLE.) INDIA WOULD PREFER TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR AND QUESTIONS THE VALUE OF A WORLD CONFERENCE. THEY SUGGESTED THAT REGIONAL CONFERENCES WOULD BE A MUCH BETTER APPROACH. SRI LANKA ALSO WOULD PREFER REGIONAL ACTIVITIES.

2. THE GDR AND PARAGUAY BOTH REPORTED FAVORABLE REACTIONS TO THE US PROPOSAL.

3. COMMENT. OUR ESTIMATE AT THIS POINT IS THAT BASED ON THE REACTIONS WE NOW HAVE FROM SOME WESTERN STATES AND THE RELUCTANCE OF OTHERS TO MAKE ANY COMMENT--THE MAJORITY OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OR CONFERENCE. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL SUPPORT IT AS THEY WILL NOT BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE VALID INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF FOCUSING ON REGIONAL CONFERENCES AND ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD LEAD UP TO AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OR WORLD ASSEMBLY SOMEWHAT LATER THAN 1982.
YOUNG

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